



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

RONALD C. MACHEN JR.
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

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**Judge Sentences Columbia Heights Cousins
For Conspiracy and Obstructing Justice
- Men Attempted to Silence Witnesses in Double Homicide -**

WASHINGTON - Azariah Israel was sentenced today to a term of incarceration of 146 years, and his cousin, Emanuel Jenkins, to a term of incarceration of 26 years for their roles in a conspiracy to obstruct justice by silencing a witness to a double homicide, Charlie Evans. The Honorable Michael L. Rankin sentenced the two defendants in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The sentencings, announced by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., came after both defendants were convicted by a jury in Superior Court. On June 11, 2010, a jury found the men guilty of conspiracy and obstructing justice for attempting to silence witnesses to a violent assault in Columbia Heights Village that left two men dead and three surviving wounded victims.

The jury also found Israel guilty of two counts of first degree premeditated murder while armed and three counts of assault with intent to kill while armed, for his roles in the December 9, 2005 murders of Anthony Blount and Joshua Gregory and the woundings of three others in an attack that took place in the 1300 block of Columbia Road NW. Israel also was convicted of related weapons offenses. Jenkins was also convicted of carrying a pistol without a license.

This case culminated a series of prosecutions targeting gang violence in the Columbia Heights area, all of which were instrumental in securing the safety of witnesses and in protecting the community from notorious and violent offenders such as Israel and Jenkins.

Israel, 35, who uses the nickname "Head," and Jenkins, 25, who uses the nickname "E," terrorized the Clifton Street neighborhood of Washington, D.C. for many years. Several witnesses who testified against them at trial were understandably terrified. The defendants targeted Charlie Evans, for example, after determining that he had cooperated with law enforcement about witnessing the Columbia Heights Village assault by Israel.

Evans was fatally shot Aug. 26, 2006 at First and Varnum streets NE.

Israel already is serving a sentence of over 64 years for his role in the January 27, 2006 robbery of a 7-11 store at 14th and Columbia Road, NW, and the shooting of an employee during that robbery. In addition, he is serving a sentence of 53 years for his role in another conspiracy to obstruct justice by silencing witnesses and for the October 10, 2004 murder of Pierre Johnson, another witness, at 14th and W streets, NW.

In announcing the sentences rendered today, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the combined efforts of Metropolitan Police Department Cold Case/Major Case Detectives Mitchell Credle, Darryl Richmond and Jeffrey Owens, Special Victim's Unit Detective Carlos Hilliard, Officers Ridley Durham, Kemper Agee and Leather Strong, as well as Officer Luciano Morales of the Firearms Unit. He also commended the work of U.S. Attorney's Office employees Leif Hickling, Thomas (Ron) Royal and Kimberley Smith of the Litigation Support Services Unit, Paralegals Alesha Matthews-Yette, Debra Joyner, and Kelly Blakeney; Victim Witness Assistant Unit Security Specialists Tanya Via and Debra Cannon, and Intelligence Analyst Larry Grasso. He further commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Denise Cheung, Laura Bach, and Amanda Haines who were involved in the investigation and presentation of evidence during several trials involving this group. Finally, Mr. Machen commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Jennifer Kerkhoff, who tried these final cases

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